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09/725,406	11/29/2000	Steven Goldstein	29892.010000	5976

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EXAMINER

KOPPIKAR, VIVEK D

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3626

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

09/725,406

Applicant(s)

GOLDSTEIN, STEVEN

Examiner

Vivek D. Koppikar

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 24 March 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27,33,34,37,38 and 42 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-27,33,34,37,38 and 42 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

*[Handwritten signature]*

**FINAL OFFICE ACTION**

***Status of the Application***

1. Claims 1-27, 33-34, 37-38 and 42 have been examined in this application. This office action is in response to the Supplemental Response that the applicants submitted on March 24, 2005.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-8, 15-27, 33-34, 37-38 and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bro, pat. No. 6,249,809 in view of Joao, Pat. No. 6,283,761 and in further view of US Patent Number 6,208,973 to Boyer.

As per amended claim 1, Bro discloses a system for providing support and care to persons considering or undergoing a medical procedure (see abstract), comprising:

means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioners (see Fig. 2 and col. 3, lines 29-39),

means for providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone (i.e. motivational and/or informational messages)(col. 3, lines 29-39, and

means for receiving, processing and delivering care orders and medicaments from said medical practitioners to said persons (col. 7, lines 34-38, col. 8, lines 25-29, col. 9, lines 5-21 and col. 10, lines 12-20).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for a third party provider to receive, process provide, and deliver and means for said third party for scheduling and coordinating medical consultations and said medical procedure between said persons and said medical practitioners.

However, Joao discloses means for a third party to receive, process, provide, and deliver (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34, col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48) Joao also discloses means for a third party for scheduling and coordinating medical consultations and said medical procedure between said persons and said medical practitioners (col. 32, lines 47-52). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for scheduling and coordinating medical consultations and said medical procedure between said persons and said medical practitioners as disclosed by Joao within the Bro system for the motivation of providing improved health care quality and efficient information collection (col. 2, lines 46-54).

The collective system of Bro and Joao does not teach a means for a third party to receive, process, and provide information regarding between at least one person and at least one medical practitioner, wherein said information includes information necessary for a third party lender to finance at least one medical procedure for said person whereby a portion of a fee charged by said medical practitioner for said medical procedure is paid by said medical practitioner to said third party provider in exchange for said third party bringing together said person and said medical provider for said medical procedure which is financed by said third party lender. However, this

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feature is well-known in the art as evidenced by Boyer (Figure 1; Col. 6, Ln. 13-39 and Col. 7, Ln. 50-52). At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious for one of ordinary skill in the art to have modified the collective system of Bro and Joao with the above mentioned teaching from Boyer with the motivation of producing a system capable of being used in all types of transactions involving resolution of payment by two or more parties obligated contractually or otherwise to apportion payment for received products and services, as recited in Boyer (Col. 6, Ln. 18-22).

As per amended claim 2, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, further comprising means for monitoring said persons' adherence to said medical practitioners' care orders, medical consultation and medical procedure schedules and medicament prescriptions (i.e. patient appointment reminders, refill reminders)(col. 9, lines 33-41 and col. 10, lines 13-19).

Bro does not explicitly disclose  
means for said third party provider to monitor

However, Joao discloses Means for said third party provider to monitor (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34, col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As per amended claim 3, Bro, Joao and Boyer do not explicitly disclose the system of Claim 1, further comprising means for said third party provider to schedule said medical procedure between said person and said medical practitioner; and means for said third party

provider to receive, process, and deliver care orders and medicaments from said medical practitioner to said person.

However, the Examiner takes official notice that the above recited features are well known in the electronic commerce arts. The motivation for adding the above mentioned features would be to provide the patient with a convenient means for scheduling medical procedures and for ordering medical products. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the above mentioned features with motivation stated above.

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 4, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, further comprising means for requesting and obtaining said persons' insurer or other third party payor authorization for payment of said medical consultations and procedures (i.e. service authorization)(col. 9, lines 42-52).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48).

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 5, Bro does not explicitly disclose the system of Claim 1, further comprising means for processing data regarding sales of medicaments and completion of financing transactions for said medical procedure by said medical practitioner and processing of payments due to said medical practitioner based on said sales of medicaments and financed procedures.

However, Joao discloses means for processing data regarding sales of medicaments and completion of financing transactions for said medical procedure by said medical practitioner and processing of payments due to said medical practitioner based on said sales of medicaments and financed procedures (col. 37, lines 36 - col. 38, line 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for processing data regarding sales of medicaments and completion of financing transactions for said medical procedure by said medical practitioner and processing of payments due to said medical practitioner based on said sales of medicaments and financed procedures as disclosed by Joao within the Bro system for the motivation of providing healthcare information which can be used to administer and maintain financial accounts of patients and providers (col. 10, lines 49-55).

As to claim 6, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons further comprises a network of computer systems (i.e. internet)(Fig. 5A and col. 6, lines 23-27 and lines 39-67, and col. 7, lines 10-15).

Bro does not explicitly disclose

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means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature.

However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 7, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons further comprises a voice telephony system permitting communication between said medical practitioner and said patient (col. 6, lines 62-64 and col. 8, lines 15-20).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 8, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons further comprises a facsimile communications system permitting communication between said medical practitioner and said patient (i.e. Fax on demand)(col. 8, lines 25-30).

Bro does not explicitly disclose



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means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature.

However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 15, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone further comprises kits assembled and delivered to said persons containing said information (col. 8, lines 25-29).

Bro does not explicitly disclose

means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature.

However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

As to claim 16, Bro discloses the system of Claim 15, Bro discloses wherein said kits include information regarding said medical practitioner who will perform said medical procedure (col. 9, lines 59-65).

As to claim 17, Bro discloses the system of Claim 15, wherein said kits include information regarding self-care measures for said person to undertake (col. 8, lines 25-30 and col. 9, lines 5-21).

As to claim 18, Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose the system of Claim 15, wherein said kits include medicaments to be used by said person.

However, the Examiner takes official notice that it was well known in the medical supplies arts to assemble or package kits including medicaments to be used by persons. For example, many vitamin manufacturers allow users to electronically access web sites to place orders for vitamins that are deemed necessary for the users. The manufacturers are able to process the orders, package the ordered vitamins including materials describing the ordered items, information/brochures/fact sheets about other available but not ordered items, incentives for subsequent orders and information about the company. The motivation for assembling kits including the ordered vitamins was to provide convenient and secure mailing of the ordered vitamins and provide incentives for the user to place additional orders with that particular manufacturer. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include said kits include medicaments to be used by said person within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation stated above.

As to claims Amended 19, 20, Amended Claim 21, 22, Amended Claim 23, 24, Amended Claim 25, 26, Amended Claim 27, Amended Claim 33, 34, Amended Claim 37, Amended Claim 38 and 42, the claims are similar in scope to claims 1-8 and 12-18 and are rejected on the same basis.

4. Claims 9-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bro and Joao as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Iliff, Pat. No. 5,935,060.

As to claim 9, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for medical care (col. 3, lines 29-39 and col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 6 and col. 8, lines 47-56).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose means for receiving, processing, and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol

However Iliff discloses means for receiving, processing, and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol (see Fig. 8A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for receiving, processing, and providing further comprises a structured query protocol as disclosed by Iliff within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation of automating the process of diagnosing

by the use of lists that can be processed to generate a dialogue with patients and permit universal unrestricted access to medical information (col. 1, lines 35-45 and line 66 - col. 2, line 9).

As to claim 10, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioner designed to allow said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for information regarding said medical procedure care (col. 3, lines 29-39 and col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 6 and col. 8, lines 47-56).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose means for receiving, processing and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol.

However, Iliff discloses means for receiving, processing and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol (see Fig. 8A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for receiving, processing, and providing further comprises a structured query protocol as disclosed by Iliff

within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation of automating the process of diagnosing by the use of lists that can be processed to generate a dialogue with patients and permit universal unrestricted access to medical information (col. 1, lines 35-45 and line 66 - col. 2, line 9).

As to claim 11, Bro discloses the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for receiving, processing and providing information regarding said persons to and from said persons and said medical practitioner further comprises a structured query protocol designed to allow said medical practitioner to assess said person's physical and psychological/psychiatric characteristics in order to identify said person's needs for positive reinforcement care (col. 3, lines 29-39 and col. 6, line 67 - col. 7, line 6 and col. 8, lines 47-56).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose means for receiving, processing and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol.

However, Iliff discloses means for receiving, processing and providing information further comprises a structured query protocol (see Fig. 8A). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for receiving,

processing, and providing further comprises a structured query protocol as disclosed by Iliff within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation of automating the process of diagnosing by the use of lists that can be processed to generate a dialogue with patients and permit universal unrestricted access to medical information (col. 1, lines 35-45 and line 66 - col. 2, line 9).

5. Claims 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bro and Joao as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Lade, Diane, "Cyber Docs people with a wide range of medical problems are finding support online from doctors and other patients themselves" (hereinafter Cyber Docs).

As to Amended claim 12, Bro does not explicitly disclose the system of Claim 1, wherein said means for providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone comprises a website accessible via a network of computer systems connected by common protocols, said website having a searchable database containing information regarding said medical procedure being considered.

However Joao discloses wherein said means for providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding said medical procedure being considered or undergone comprises a website accessible via a network of computer systems connected by common protocols (i.e. internet)(col. 11, line 66 - col. 12, line 5, col. 13, lines 39-50 and col. 15, lines 6-25). Joao further discloses said website having a searchable database containing information regarding said medical procedure being considered (i.e. database 10H)(col. 17, lines 25-61). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include means for providing information and positive reinforcement to said persons regarding

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said medical procedure being considered or undergone comprises a website accessible via a network of computer systems connected by common protocols, said website having a searchable database containing information regarding said medical procedure being considered within the Bro system for the motivation of providing healthcare information and treatment information in a networked environment, thereby providing on demand anytime, anywhere access to medical information to a patient (col. 8, lines 14-26 and lines 43-53).

Bro does not explicitly disclose means for use of said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature. However, Joao discloses for said third party provider to carry out the aforementioned feature (i.e. intermediaries)(col. 3, lines 17-34 , col. 8, lines 27-34 and lines 59-63 and col. 14, lines 33-48). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include the aforementioned feature as disclosed by Joao within Bro for the motivation stated in claim 1 above.

Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose wherein information is provided without obligation or requiring persons using the system to disclose their identities or other personal information, thereby fostering a sense of comfort and trust in the person considering undergoing said medical procedure.

However, Cyber Doc discloses wherein information is provided without obligation or requiring persons using the system to disclose their identities or other personal information, thereby fostering a sense of comfort and trust in the person considering undergoing said medical procedure (i.e. patients don't risk losing their anonymity)(page 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include wherein

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information is provided without obligation or requiring persons using the system to disclose their identities or other personal information, thereby fostering a sense of comfort and trust in the person considering undergoing said medical procedure as disclosed by Cyber Docs within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation of not embarrassing the patient (page 2).

As to amended claim 13, Bro and Joao do not explicitly disclose the system of Claim 12, wherein said information provided through said website comprises accounts of the personal experiences of persons who have undergone the medical procedure under consideration.

However, Cyber Docs discloses wherein said information provided through said website comprises accounts of the personal experiences of persons who have undergone the medical procedure under consideration (i.e. connecting with someone whose experiences mirror their own)(page 2). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of Applicant's invention to include wherein said information provided through said website comprises accounts of the personal experiences of persons who have undergone the medical procedure under consideration as disclosed by Cyber Docs within the Bro and Joao combination for the motivation of providing access to medical information to patients with no access or support (page 2).

As to amended claim 14, Bro discloses the system of Claim 12, further comprising means for accessing a live attendant that can provide additional information, assist with selection of a medical practitioner and coordinate scheduling of an initial consultation with the selected medical practitioner upon request by persons using the system (col. 9, lines 22-41).



*Response to Arguments*

6. Applicant's arguments filed on March 24, 2005 with respect to claims 1-27, 33-34, 37-38 and 42 have been fully considered but are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection.

*Conclusion*

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

8. Any inquire concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Vivek Koppikar, whose telephone number is (571) 272-5109. The examiner can normally be reached from Monday to Friday between 8 AM and 4:30 PM.

If any attempt to reach the examiner by telephone is unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph Thomas, can be reached at (571) 272-6776. The fax telephone number for this group is (703) 305-7687 (for official communications including After Final communications labeled "Box AF").

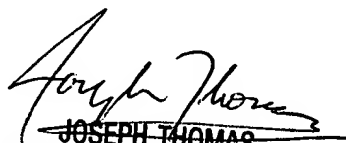
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Another resource that is available is the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR). Information regarding the status of an application can be obtained from the (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAX. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, please feel free to contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Sincerely,

  
Vivek Koppikar

8/30/2005

  
JOSEPH THOMAS  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600